As per power delegated to Navratna PSUs, permission from the Government is not required in this case.

In view of the expansion plans of SAIL, the requirement of imported coal from other countries may not come down inspite of the joint venture.

Coal shortage situation

3243. SHRI G1REESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether a serious coal shortage situation is brewing at a number of major thevmal power stations across the country, with the coal stcck position in 20 stations being termed as "critical";

if so, whether according to his Ministry the shortages are on account of a lower coal production by Coal India Limited between April and September, 2007;

if so, the latest position; and

the steps being considered to meet the coal shortage in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAI (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (c) There is no acute shortage of coal for power generation into stations having coal stock of less than 7 days consumption are considered critical. Central Electricity Authority, which monitors the coal stock position of 77 thermal power stations located all over the country reports the details of number of critical plants on daily basis and number/ specific plant keeps changing due to change in coal stock position. As on 20.4.2008, there are 22 number of critical thermal power stations on account of loading/unloading and movement constrants, short-term production constraints in the linked source etc. Though Coal India Limited (CIL)'s production during April-September, 2007 was less as compared to the larget, ClL's dispatches to power utilities were more than the Annual Action Plan target by liquidating pithead coal stock. The coal dispatches to power utilities during April-September, 2007 was 130.96 million tonnes as against target of 128.90 million tonnes, registering a growth of about 5.5% over corresponding period of previous year.

(d) The Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term), an inter-ministerial Committee allocates coal, on quarterly basis, from coal producing companies to various power utilities. A Sub-group under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal comprising the representatives of Ministry of Power, Railways and Central Electricity Authority monitors supply of coal to various power stations. Corrective measures are taken by the sub-group from time to time to ensure availability of sufficient supply of coal to various power utilities and to prevent any loss of generation of power due to non availability of coal.

Safety parameters in coal mines

3244. SHRI BJ. PANDA:

MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre proposes to monitor safety parameters in coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;